

Dear Sirs,

Once upon a time we had the fairness doctrine. This was because the access to own networks was so limited that this doctrine was necessary to ensure diversity of voices. Today we thought the vast diversity of access points to media would allow for diversity. However, due to the 1996 Communications Act, diversity of ownership of American media has been lost. Monopoly is ruling the day and the diversity of viewpoints is gone. The public ownership of the airwaves is an idea whose roots go back to Queen Elizabeth the first. We need to reestablish the airwaves as a place where an honest diversity of opinion can be heard.

The recent actions of the Sinclair television to insist on a one-sided political diatribe to be aired on its stations without comment or counterpoint amounts to an incredible donation of commercial air time to the Bush campaign. More honestly, it is blatant propaganda and an attempt to brainwash the American people. Several of these markets do not have free broadcast alternatives. The behavior the Sinclair management is unethical, undemocratic, and un-American.

It is the duty of the FCC as the watchdog of the American media to act to defend the diversity of this great country. This country has been built and defended by a tremendous variety of people who have come here from all over the world, some who were here when Columbus first landed. It is your duty to ensure that this great diversity of humanity does not get lost to monopolistic forces whose fondness for diversity ends with the first differing opinion. You need to demand the Sinclair network offer other voices, at similar time slots, offering differing viewpoints of this current presidential election question. There are easily a dozen titles in the catalog today which could easily, and honestly, fill the bill. Honestly, isn't honesty what it is all about.

Thank you, Dan Dene